

# NEBRASKA history news

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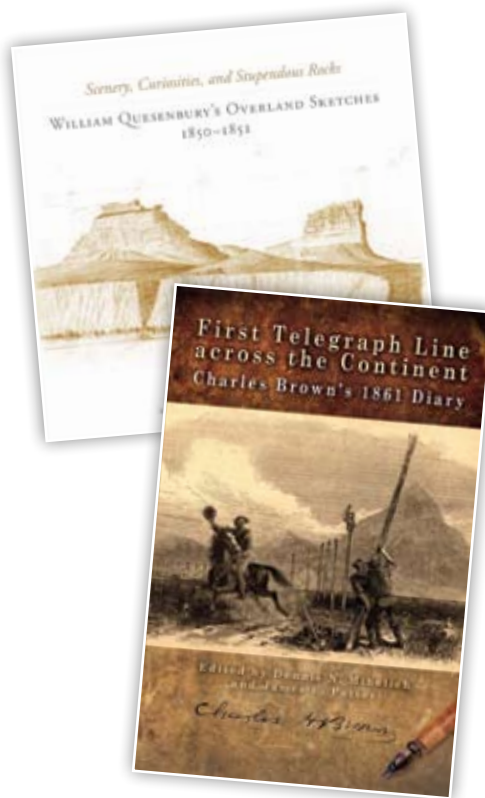
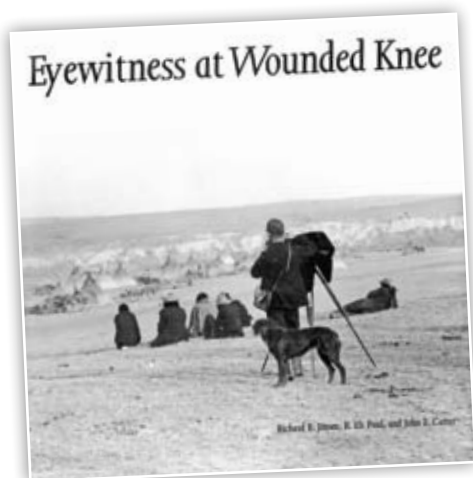
## New Books This Fall

The NSHS mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the histories we share is supported by the publication of three new books:

***First Telegraph Line across the Continent: Charles Brown's 1861 Diary***, edited by Dennis N. Mihelich and James E. Potter, was published in August. Brown's unpublished diary, untouched for decades in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, came to light as part of Mihelich's research on Edward Creighton. The diary is remarkable not only for its vivid descriptions of life along the Platte Valley Road in Nebraska Territory; it is also the only known chronicle of daily events associated with the building of the transcontinental telegraph. The book is published under the Nebraska State Historical Society Books imprint.

***Eyewitness at Wounded Knee*** was issued in a new paperback edition in September by the University of Nebraska Press. Authors Richard E. Jensen, R. Eli Paul, and John E. Carter were all on the NSHS staff when the first edition was published in 1991. Now back in print with digitally restored images, this acclaimed book assembles and assesses some 150 photographs made before and immediately after the infamous December 1890 massacre.

"All attempts to understand what really happened at Wounded Knee start here," writes historian Heather Cox Richardson in the book's new introduction.



***Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks: William Quesenbury's Overland Sketches, 1850-1851***, by David Royce Murphy, with contributions by Michael L. Tate and Michael Farrell, will appear in December from University of Oklahoma Press. This large-format, richly illustrated book presents a nineteenth-century artist's view of the American West, sketched along the overland trails of Nebraska territory, and illuminated by modern maps, contemporary photographs, and descriptive notes. David Murphy, the book's principal author, is the NSHS's senior research architect.

Publication of *First Telegraph* and *Scenery* was made possible by the generous support of Ron and Judy Parks—see p. 11 to learn more.

To order, see the order form insert in the Fall 2011 *Nebraska History*, visit us online at [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) or call the NSHS Landmark Stores at 402-471-3447.



*The Nebraska State Historical Society collects, preserves, and opens to all, the histories we share.*



*"No one owns this history; rather everyone owns it."*

### Whose History Is It?

Surprising as it may seem, this can be one of the most troubling issues confronting an historical organization at the state or community level. Thus I was delighted recently on visiting the Nuckolls County Historical Society in Superior to hear the officers, staff, and volunteers of their energetic museum say more than once, "This history belongs to the people of our county." That very basic point of fact is something that we can all remember with benefit to our work and our institutions.

History is not exclusive to a time or a particular set of people. Each succeeding generation shares in the histories of those who came before. If we do our work well in our museums and historical organizations, we find that our history is not confined to the pioneers or the founders or even the current members and donors. No, our histories do and must include the stories of those who once used the land, the Indians of ancient times, the pioneer ranchers, and every generation that has succeeded them across the years. No one owns this history; rather everyone owns it. Your story becomes my story when our paths cross through successive occupation of property, through attendance at schools or membership in civic organizations, through working in factories or stores, through social institutions such as our churches, indeed through all avenues of human activity. Your story and my story will become part of the history of those who follow us.

At the Nebraska State Historical Society we are committed to preserving not our individual histories, but rather the materials that can open paths of exploration into the histories of all Nebraskans, past and present. We are merely the collectors and the caretakers. The history belongs not to the curator or the archivist, but rather to you, all the people of our state.

I encourage all who are committed to the history of Nebraska to always keep in mind that the story belongs to the people of today and of many tomorrows.

  
Michael J. Smith  
Director/CEO

### Why Every Curator Should Enter a Plowing Match

This summer, at the Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) annual meeting in West Virginia, I plowed. Granted it was only two furrows in the horse-drawn plowing match, but in my mind, I plowed.

I was nervous, as there were lots of things to remember and much that could go wrong. I was in the novice class and had an expert "mentor" standing beside me, ready to take over if things went awry. This was both a comfort and a motivator. My goal was to make it down the field with only my hands guiding the plow. I did it and felt inordinately proud of myself—I might have even jumped up and down a bit. I spent the rest of the match cheering and strategizing with the rest of the participants. We joked about wearing tiaras next time to get more style points (if only it were that easy!) and examined rocks that had scars where the plows had hit them. But what was surprising about the match was not that I had fun, but that it had me examining how I relate to the objects I care for.

I have lived only in urban areas, and my experience with farming goes no further than the farmer's market. As a museum curator, I've walked past and looked at photographs of plows several times a day. By and large, the artifacts in our collection are preserved and not used. I've been trained to take care of plows, exhibit them, research them, and make them available to the public, but I've never been trained to use them.

Using a plow was by far the most complex interaction I've had with an artifact. During the match I plowed in two different locations. Plowing the first was a bit strenuous, but not as much as I expected. The experts, however, warned that the soil in the second location was difficult, and they were right. It was harder to keep the plow bottom in the soil. Though



NSHS Associate Director Deb Arenz plows a furrow in West Virginia.





**The Chrisman sisters,  
near Goheen Settlement  
on Lieban Creek,  
Custer County, 1886.**  
NSHS RG2608-1053

I saw no rocks, I hit bumps I didn't encounter in the first field. I needed help to keep the plow straight.

This was fascinating. Why did the soil differ so much in such a small area? If I didn't see rocks, why was it so bumpy? Was it my technique or the quality of the soil that made my second run less successful than the first? How much experience would a person need to be able to handle all types of terrain? I was full of questions and I found myself thinking of the plows in our collection and what it would be like to use them. This was something I'd never done before.

I have attended a number of professional meetings throughout my career to learn more about caring for and sharing the artifacts of our past. What I appreciated about the plow match at the ALHFAM conference, and other hands-on offerings there, was that they helped me understand how objects work and what it feels like to use them. This helps me relate to the people of our past in a way that would never

happen by just passing a plow in storage or on exhibit day after day.

I thought about a photograph in our collection, taken in 1886 in Custer County, Nebraska. It shows the Chrisman sisters, some of the few women that came to Nebraska to claim their own homesteads. I've seen their faces hundreds of times, but now I began to wonder about them as people. Did they learn to plow before they came to Nebraska? How did they manage their first time? Were they mildly elated like the rest of the novices in our match? (It's fun to think of them giving each other high-fives in their dresses, isn't it?) Did they feel a sense of accomplishment, or did they feel discouraged that only one furrow was turned and so many were left to go? I was relating to these women differently now because we had a shared experience: we all stood behind a plow.

—Deb Arenz, Associate Director / Collections Division

## NSHS Holiday Closings

**J**ust a reminder about the upcoming holiday season at the NSHS: Because Christmas and New Year's Day are on Sundays this year, all NSHS facilities will be closed for observance of the state holiday on the following Mondays, December 26, 2011, and January 2, 2012. In addition, they will be closed Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31.

All NSHS facilities will be closed on Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, November 24; and November 25, also a state holiday. See [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) for updated closing information.

## NSHS Annual Report: Online September 30

**A**s a cost-saving measure, the 2010-2011 NSHS Annual Report will be an electronic-only document. It will be available online starting September 30. Go to [nebraskahistory.org/admin/report](http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/report), or just click on the "Publications" tab on our website's home page.

If web access is an issue, call Lana Hatcher at 402-471-3272 to request that a printed copy be mailed to you.

## More History for More People!

As a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society you know what fascinating stories our magazine *Nebraska History* offers. Now a new membership category will reach more people with the state's history.

The new subscription-only membership offers a rate that is more competitive with other magazine subscriptions. Subscription-only members receive four issues each of *Nebraska History* and *Nebraska History News* (eight publications total) for \$29 per year. With the holiday season soon upon us, you don't need to wait to order gift subscriptions for your friends and relatives. It's an affordable way to introduce people to our state's history—and to the NSHS's role in preserving it. Contact Lana Hatcher at [lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov) or 1-800-833-6747 or 402-471-3272 for more information.

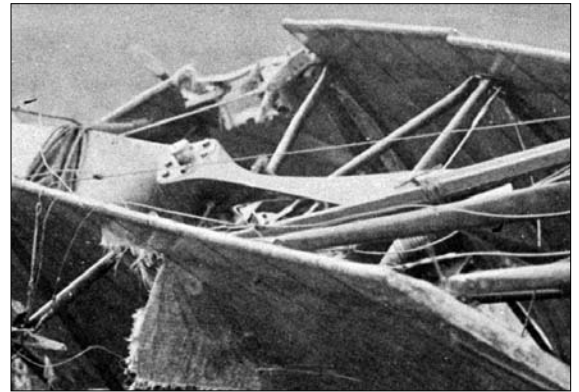
Individual memberships with full benefits (such as member discounts, free admission to historic sites, free copies in the NSHS Reference Room, etc.) are still \$40 per year. And the full memberships are a great gift idea, too. Visit [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) for a complete list of benefits.

Does the photo on the right show a Nebraska History Museum artifact? Compare this photo to the one on p. 12. This photo shows the aftermath of Matt Savidge's fatal crash near Ewing, Nebraska, June 17, 1916. The p. 12 photo shows the propeller in our collections that is said to be from that crash. It's appearance is altered by a non-original plate covering the center hole; more important, the propeller shown in the crash photo seems to be missing a blade. NSHS RG2508-2

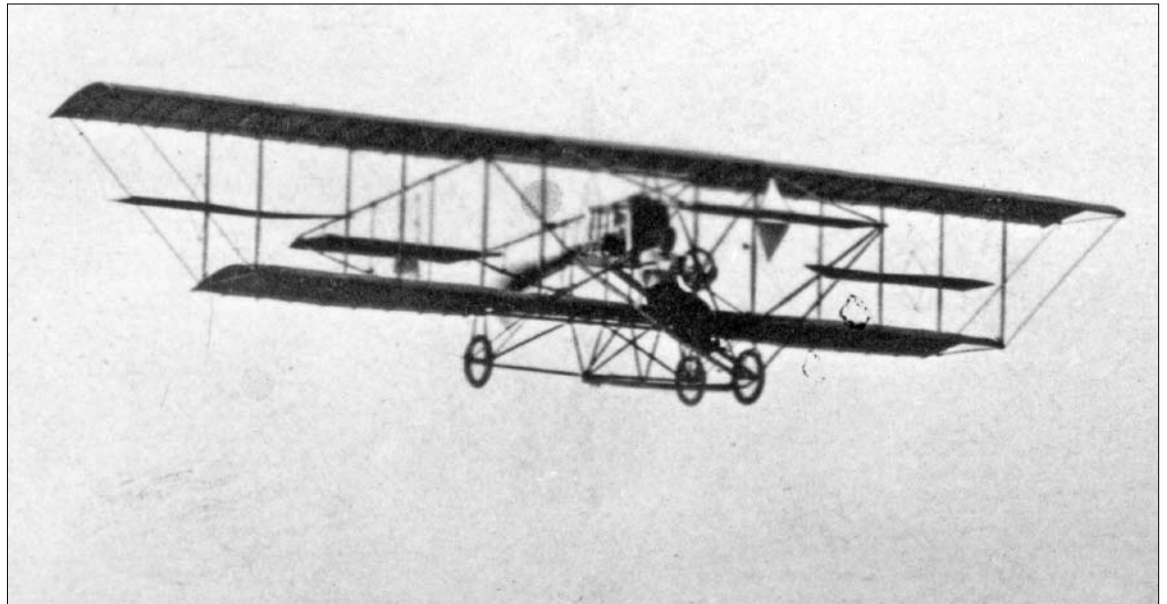
## Pioneering Aviators from Flyover Country Opens December 1

They were inventors, mechanics, scientists, and patriots. They were risk-takers, entertainers, and celebrities. They were men and women who dared test their skills, their endurance, and the performance of their fragile machines by taking to the skies. They were aviators.

In the early twentieth century and beyond, intrepid Nebraskans dedicated their lives (and some lost them) to the advancement of flight, a new technology vulnerable to mechanical and structural failure, bad weather, or pilot inexperience. Their stories are told through artifacts and photos in a new exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum at Fifteenth and P streets in Lincoln. *Pioneering Aviators from Flyover Country* opens December 1 and runs through October 26, 2012. Admission is free. 402-471-4754.



One of the Savidge brothers flies over Spalding, Neb., about 1913. NSHS RG2508-9





## Pioneer Cemetery Receives Historical Marker

The playing of the national anthem, firing of muskets, and the shuffling of feet over the ground above him weren't enough to wake Francis Henry Baker from his 117-year sleep. The commotion was caused by a ceremony dedicating the new historical marker at the 130-year-old Granville Cemetery southwest of Humphrey (between Norfolk and Columbus), where Baker and about sixty-five of his fellow pioneers are buried.

Their rest continues undisturbed, but the cemetery itself came back to life thanks to citizen members of the Granville Cemetery Association. Founded in 1881, the cemetery fell into disrepair decades later as people with ties to it left the area. In the mid-1970s, the land surrounding the cemetery was sold to an area farmer who put in a center-pivot irrigation system. It cut across a corner of the cemetery, which raised the ire of some area residents and descendants of the pioneers buried there. In 2000, a six-year court battle began that resulted in a judgment in favor of the revived Granville Cemetery Association.

The cemetery had come back to life.

Now a fence separates the cemetery from the fields, and white crosses mark spots where it is believed graves exist. They surround the surviving stone monuments, many of which had fallen into disrepair and had to be restored.

Baker, who served in Company C, 8th Illinois Cavalry, during the Civil War, moved to the Humphrey area following the war. Once there, he worked as a harness maker and justice of the peace and married the daughter of fellow settlers James and Mary Tate. Baker died in 1894 and was laid to rest in the plot of land Adin and Dianna Potter had sold for a cemetery when their two-month-old daughter, Edith, died in 1881. Potter was also a Civil War veteran who relocated to the Humphrey area after the war.

When the Potters donated the land, concerned citizens formed the Granville Cemetery Association, so named because Adin Potter had hailed from Granville, New York. Over the years, more burials took place in the cemetery, including James and Mary Tate, whose stone is one of the few still standing. Eventually many of the people who had ties to the cemetery left the area. Markers fell into disrepair; weeds grew.

In late May 2011, around 100 people, including Civil War re-enactors, politicians, historians, and descendants of the pioneers gathered at the site to recognize the cemetery's 130th anniversary, to honor the Civil War veterans and pioneers associated with it, and to dedicate a new state historical marker.

As winds whipped gray clouds across the sky, the people who played a part in restoring the cemetery told their stories. Among them was Mary Shott of Alliance, great-granddaughter of the Potters and Tates, who said she was surprised when Nancy Hartman called and asked if she would be willing to join the battle to save the cemetery.

"I didn't know about my Tate grandparents until Nancy (Hartman) called," said Shott, who added that she knew she had relatives living in the Humphrey area, she just didn't know who they were or where they were buried.

Hartman, of Bellwood, spearheaded the restoration effort, which eventually included Brian Beckner, an attorney in Platte County. Because very few similar cases exist, this one set a precedent, Beckner said. "This case will protect cemeteries," he added.

Following the speeches, members of the Harrison Camp Post Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War from Wisner fired a musket volley into the air. They stood just feet from Baker's grave, which had been decorated with the symbols of war, including a musket, bayonet, canteen, haversack, and knapsack.

"There have been a lot of joys and frustrations," Hartman said of the process. "I had people criticize me for what I was doing to the farmer—people who didn't think it was wrong to run an irrigation system over a grave. (These pioneers) are a very important part of our history."

"They started the town, established the first schools and roads. They endured a lot, and we owe them our respect."

—Sheryl Schmeckpeper, NSHS Trustee

**Francis Baker's grave was decorated with the "symbols of war" during a dedication of the Granville Cemetery in May. Baker served in the Civil War prior to moving to Nebraska.**



## Honoring History Makers at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Join us on Friday, October 14, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to recognize people who've made history by helping to preserve it. The following people will be honored at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon in Lincoln:

Mary and Doug Lienemann, Lincoln, will receive the **Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award** for outstanding contributions or assistance to the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Dr. Peter Bleed, Lincoln, for lifelong work in the field of Great Plains archeology, will be recognized with the **Asa T. Hill Memorial Award**.

Mary Lou Green, Columbus, who epitomizes the best Nebraska educators have to offer in engaging, inspiring and guiding their history students, will receive the **James C. Olson Memorial Award**.

Dr. John Wunder, Lincoln, will receive the **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award**

in recognition of his outstanding and long-term contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history.

Dr. Amy Helene Forss, Omaha, will be given the **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** for the best article published in Nebraska History during the previous year. Her article, "Mildred Brown and the De Porres Club: Collective Activism in Omaha, Nebraska's Near North Side, 1947-1960" appeared in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue.

The Nebraska State Capitol Commission will be presented the **Nebraska Preservation Award** in honor of the \$58 million, fifteen-year project that included planning, restoration and conservation.

The NSHS Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 North Ninth Street, Lincoln. The doors open at 11:30 a.m., with the luncheon at noon, annual business meeting at 12:45 p.m., and the awards presentation at 1:00 p.m.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person; register and pre-pay by September 26 by calling 402-471-3272, or email Lana Hatcher at [lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov).

The Sugar Valley Rally stopped at Chimney Rock National Historic Site in June. The rally is a precision-driving contest for antique cars (1961 and older) in which a driver and a navigator follow a route through the North Platte Valley as close as possible to a pre-determined time. Fifty-nine cars, including this 1928 Marmon Indy Racer, participated in this year's rally.





## Omaha Westerners Corral Commemorates a Nebraska Pioneer

**P**ersimmon Bill Chambers was a notorious Wyoming outlaw who spewed mayhem on the Cheyenne-Custer City Road during the earliest years of the Black Hills gold rush. One of Chambers's luckless victims was H. E. "Stuttering" Brown, a division superintendent of the Cheyenne-Black Hills Stage Company, who was gunned down north of the Hat Creek Station in Wyoming. Gut-shot, his death was gruesome. The stage company promptly returned Brown's body to Omaha for burial, and on April 28, 1876, with wife Mattie and daughter Lizzie at hand, a Methodist minister read the burial rite as the casket was interred in the Brown Plot in Omaha's stately Prospect Hill Cemetery. For some, that was the end of it for Stuttering Brown, but not for the Omaha Westerners.

Despite leaving his widow "in comfortable circumstances," as reported in the *Omaha Daily Bee*, and his considerable pioneer legacy, Widow Brown did not mark her husband's grave. Mattie and her daughter and son then lived in Salt Lake City and likely now regarded Omaha as a sorrowful memory.

When they heard this sad tale at a winter meeting in the 2010-11 season, one of the Omaha Westerners noted that the group "ought to make this right." The simple suggestion elicited a boisterous response and a charge to several members to procure a monument for Brown's lonely grave. The campaign was completed in early June 2011 when Omaha's Bloom Monument Company located the grave and set the stone.

Brown was, indeed, a heralded Nebraska and Wyoming pioneer. He is remembered as a partner



**Workers place H. E. Brown's gravestone at Omaha's Prospect Hill Cemetery.**

in the operation of a gambling den and pawnshop in early Omaha, as a substantial property owner in that city, as a freighter on the overland trail and for Union Pacific during the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, and, at the time of his death, as a division superintendent for the new Cheyenne-Black Hills Stage Mail and Express Company responsible for operations north of Fort Laramie. A contemporary remembered Brown as one of the "bravest and best men on the frontier." Oh yes, H. E. Brown did stutter, an impediment that variously embarrassed and humored him. History books remember him only as "Stuttering Brown." Now, thanks to the Omaha Westerners, history also records his grave.

—Paul L. Hedren

## Home Movie Day Screens Your Films October 15

**C**hoice community events, family fun, scenes of travels near and far—everything that makes home movies worth watching will be featured during Home Movie Day, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., Saturday, October 15, at the Nebraska History Museum, Fifteenth & P streets, Lincoln. Curator of Audiovisual Collections Paul Eisloeffel will host the event, which will feature amateur-made footage loaned by Nebraskans as well as gems from NSHS collections.

Practical information on home movies and their preservation will accompany the screening of the "greatest hits." If you are a home movie hobbyist, a local or family historian or just a lover of campy film, then Home Movie Day is for you! For more information: 402-471-7837 or visit [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org) or the NSHS on Facebook.

## An Odd Ode

**O**ur Library/Archives reference staff is so good that they inspire tributes in verse. A researcher from the U.K. had this to say about Andrea Faling of our staff. It's titled "An Odd Ode":

*Queries that we ask ya  
Come fastest from Nebraska  
For Andrea is no failure  
Whatever may assail yer!*

Direct your research queries to the reference staff at 402-471-4751 or [nshs.libarch@nebraska.gov](mailto:nshs.libarch@nebraska.gov). Your questions need not rhyme (at least not all the time).

## Register Compiler Eloise Thomsen Helps Orphans Trace Their Families

**I**n 1977 Eloise Thomsen of Omaha created the Orphan Register to document names of orphans who came west by train between 1863 and 1929 from the New York City area. It was her intention to give the material she compiled to the Nebraska State Historical Society, and that transfer was completed in the last few years.

Eloise was not an orphan, nor did she have any relatives who were orphans. After she had problems with locating some of her ancestors, she became intrigued by the problems these orphans would have in locating their biological siblings (if any) and the challenges facing the riders' descendants in tracing their genealogy. At her own expense, she began sending out printed forms that orphans (or their representatives) could complete based on whatever

information they had. Besides recording their information, she also directed them to the Children's Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital, since they were the main organizations that sent children out west to find families who would take them in and raise them to adulthood.

Eloise organized approximately 700 completed forms from orphans as well as collecting orphan stories from various sources. Along with additional data that Lloyd Castner has collected regarding orphans, NSHS volunteer Mary Rabenberg is organizing the data so a database can be maintained at the NSHS. Mary is being assisted by Linda, Lloyd, Rosie and others on this project. Besides reunions of Orphan Train riders and their descendants, various books have been written about the riders and the establishment of the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America in Springdale, Arkansas, in 1986. In 2003, the collection of the Heritage Society was moved to Concordia, Kansas, where it is now known as the National Orphan Train Complex.

With the help of volunteers, the NSHS hopes that the Orphan Register established by Eloise and updated into a database will be another source that preserves the stories of these orphans. If you would like to assist with this project or have information about Orphan Train riders, please contact Tom Mooney, manuscripts curator, [tom.mooney@nebraska.gov](mailto:tom.mooney@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-6396.

—Cindy S. Drake, Library Curator

**Left to right: Linda Hein, Lloyd Castner, Eloise Thomsen, Rosie McGuire, Cindy Drake.**

Eloise is now ninety-four years old and is a resident of Marquis Place at Elkhorn. On June 7, 2011, Cindy Drake, library curator, and Linda Hein, assistant reference curator, visited Eloise and interviewed her about the Orphan Register. They were joined by Lloyd Castner, his wife, Kay, and Rosie McGuire. Lloyd and Rosie both had a parent who was an Orphan Train rider.



Damaged by flooding last year, the banks of the Elkhorn River are now restored at Neligh Mill State Historic Site. The site is owned and operated by the NSHS.



## Coming in *Nebraska History*

**M**odern military leaders speak of the army's "long tail," by which they mean the large number of resources and support staff necessary to maintain each soldier in the field. The "tail" was shorter for the frontier army, but it still found itself frequently outmaneuvered on the Great Plains because of its reliance on grain-fed horses and long wagon trains of supplies. This was especially true in the latter years of the Civil War, when horses were scarce. Read more about it in James E. Potter's "Horses: The Army's Achilles' Heel in the Civil War Plains Campaigns of 1864-65," in the forthcoming Winter 2011 issue of *Nebraska History*.

## Celebrate the Holidays with the NSHS

**E**njoy a free **Victorian holiday open house** at the Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H Street in Lincoln, December 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. In December the house is decorated for a Victorian Christmas complete with a Christmas tree, examples of toys and gifts, historic photographs, and Christmas cards from the 1870s. For additional information on the open house and tours at the Kennard House, open by appointment, call (402) 471-4754.

**Photographs of Christmas Past** will be displayed at the Nebraska History Museum at Fifteenth and P streets in Lincoln from November 21, 2011, to January 9, 2012. The exhibit will feature images from the NSHS collections that illustrate some of the ways Nebraskans have celebrated the holidays through the years.

A free **Family Make-and-Take Workshop** at the Museum on December 4 from 2-4 p.m., lets attendees create their own Christmas ornaments to take home. No pre-registration is required.

**"New Year Traditions Around the World,"** a morning class for kids at the Museum (December 29), requires advance registration and costs \$10 per child. Call 402-471-4754 for updated information or see the NSHS Facebook page, linked from [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

**NSHS Landmark Stores** offer unique, Nebraska-related items and publications whether you're shopping in person or online. Visit stores at the Nebraska History Museum (Fifteenth and P streets, Lincoln), the Nebraska State Capitol (ground floor, south hall), the Fort Robinson Museum (Crawford), and the Chimney Rock Visitor Center (near Bayard). For current hours at each location and ordering information, see [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org).

Nebraska suffragist leader Clara Bewick Colby and her work with the Beatrice Public Library Association in the 1870s is another issue subject. Kristin Mapel Bloomberg writes that for a young town in that era, a library wasn't just about books, but was "also a means for propagating social values and creating pathways for women to enter into civic dialogue and larger social roles." Todd Guenther documents pastor and civil rights activist Russel Taylor and his struggles in Omaha in the 1920s and 30s in another article.

Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of November.



**Pvt. Luther North, Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry, 1863.** NSHS RG2320-43

## Deadline December 30 for Nominations to Nebraska Hall of Fame

**T**he Nebraska Hall of Fame is seeking nominations through December 30, 2011. Established by the Unicameral in 1961, its purpose is to honor outstanding Nebraskans—meaning, people who were born in Nebraska, who gained prominence here, or who lived in Nebraska and whose residence was an important influence on their lives and contributed to their greatness. Nebraskans become eligible for the Hall thirty-five years after their death.

An inductee's contributions will normally have been made in public affairs, the arts, the sciences, the professions; secondary consideration is given to entertainment, athletics or fields of endeavor where interest, publicity, and general recognition may for a time be intense, but where a contribution to society is secondary. Activities that have added to the welfare of society and to the reputation of Nebraska will be weighed more heavily than activities primarily benefiting the individual him/herself.

Inductions to the Hall are limited to one person every five years.

Nominations will be accepted through the end of the year. The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission will then review nominations and may select finalists that will be considered at public hearings held in each congressional district, in 2012-2013. After the hearings, the Commission may select one finalist for induction in 2014.

Michael J. Smith, Director/CEO of the Nebraska State Historical Society, serves as secretary of the Commission. A nomination form and other Hall of Fame information can be found at [nebraskahistory.org/admin/hall\\_of\\_fame](http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/hall_of_fame). Or to request a nomination form, contact the NSHS by mail, or email [deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov](mailto:deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov).

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.*



Christmas at the C. F. Ladd home in Lincoln, 1899.  
NSHS RG3321-3

**October 1 2-4 p.m.**

**"Harvest Festival Traditions"**

**Free Family Workshop**

Nebraska History Museum (NHM), Fifteenth & P streets, Lincoln • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**October 9 • 2 p.m.**

**D. R. Haskin, author of *Beyond the Hills of Mars***

**Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft  
888-777-4667, www.neihardtcenter.org

**October 14**

**NSHS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon**

Holiday Inn, 141 North Ninth, Lincoln (registration required)  
402-471-3272, lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov

**October 15**

**"Home Movie Day"**

**National Archives Week Event**

NHM • 402-471-7837, paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov

**October 16 • 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

***Portraits of the Prairie: The Land That Inspired Willa Cather*, by Richard Schilling**

**Book Signing**

Landmark Store, NHM • 402-471-3447

**October 20 • 12 noon**

**Linda Hein, NSHS Collections Division, "George Norris, the Man"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

NHM

**November 4, 11, 18 • 10:30 a.m.-12 noon**

**"Exploring the Nebraska History Museum"**

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Class**

NHM (registration required)  
402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**November 6 • 2 p.m.**

**Dennis Vossberg, author of *Santee Sorrow* and *Lost Black Cemetery***

**Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

**November 17 • 12 noon**

**Don Schaufelberger, "History of Nebraska Public Power"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

NHM

**November 19 • 2-4 p.m.**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**Remembrance Day Celebration**

NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**November 21-January 9, 2012**

**Christmas Photographs from the Nebraska State Historical Society Collection**

**Holiday Display**

NHM • 402-471-4750

**December 1-October 26, 2012**

***Pioneering Aviators from Flyover Country***

**Exhibition**

NHM • 402-471-4754

**December 2, 9, 16 • 10:30 a.m.-12 noon**

**"Exploring the Nebraska History Museum"**

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Class**

NHM (registration required) • 402-471-4754,  
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**December 4 • 2-4 p.m.**

**"Make-and-Take Christmas Ornaments"**

**Free Family Workshop**

NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**December 11 • 1-5 p.m.**

**Free Open House**

Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H St., Lincoln  
402-471-4754

**December 11 • 2 p.m.**

**Patricia Bremmer, author of mysteries, including *Tryst with Dolphins***

**Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

**December 15 • 12 noon**

**Deb Arenz, NSHS Collections Division, "Treasures from the Collection"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

NHM

**December 27 • 10-11 a.m.**

**Picture book readings with related activities for all ages  
Hour at the Museum**

NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**December 29 • 9:30-12 a.m.**

**"New Year Traditions Around the World"**

**Class for Kids**

NHM (registration required) • 402-471-4754,  
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

**For updated events, see the Society's Facebook page,  
linked from [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)**





## Nebraska History Wins Design Award

The Mountain-Plains Museum Association has honored *Nebraska History* with an Award of Merit in its annual Publications Design Competition. The award specifically recognizes the Fall/Winter 2010 double issue, "African Americans in Nebraska" in the Magazines, Newsletters, Quarterly or Biannual Publications division. The layout was done by Ebbeka Design of Lincoln, Nebraska.

## NSHS Honors Dunbar Teen

Loren Steinman of Dunbar, Nebraska, received a Nebraska State Historical Society Certificate of Achievement at this year's state fair for his DVD, *Pursuit of Humanity: Standing Bear's Plea for Justice*. Loren, 13, entered his presentation in the 4-H Heritage Department. Cindy S. Drake, NSHS Library Curator, has judged this competition since 1994.

## In Memoriam: Alice Filbert, 1946-2011

The NSHS lost a longtime friend and colleague this past summer. Alice Filbert, who worked here for more than thirty years as a staff artist with the exhibits department, died on July 12, 2011. She enjoyed primitive camping, sewing, and cross stitching, and volunteered with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. She is survived by her husband, David H. Filbert, and her three grown children, five grandchildren, stepmother, and four sisters. We will miss her.



# Nebraska State Historical Society FOUNDATION

## Parks Fund Supports the Preservation of Nebraska's Heritage

In 1998, Ron and Judy Parks of Papillion initiated a revolving publishing fund with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Ron said he wanted to establish this memorial fund because of his "love and admiration for his parents, Wayne Kemper Parks (1909-1995) and Hazel Virginia Hill Parks (1911-1991), lifelong Nebraskans who were born on Madison County farms, were married on March 19, 1930, and were farmers in Madison and Pierce counties."

A generous gift created the Ronald K. and Judith M. Stolz Parks Publishing Fund, designated to assist with printing costs of future books related to farming and/or agriculture, manufacturing, preservation of historic buildings, and other subjects related to the westward expansion through Nebraska. To date, the funds have supported the publication of several NSHS books:

*Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874-1899*, by Thomas Buecker

*Fort Robinson and the American Century, 1900-1948*, by Thomas Buecker



*First Telegraph Line across the Continent: Charles Brown's 1861 Diary*, edited by Dennis N. Mihelich and James E. Potter

*Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks: William Quesenbury's Overland Sketches, 1850-1851*, by David Royce Murphy, with contributions by Michael L. Tate and Michael Farrell (forthcoming, December 2011)

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is grateful to Ron and Judy for their generous financial contributions. Their philanthropic work continues to support the preservation of Nebraska's heritage.

If you would like to start a memorial fund to help preserve Nebraska's heritage please contact Jodi Knight, NSHSF Development Director, at 402-435-3535 or via email at [jodik@nshsf.org](mailto:jodik@nshsf.org).

# hours

**Nebraska  
History Museum**  
15 & P Streets, Lincoln  
402-471-4754

Monday–Friday, 9–4:30  
Sat. & Sun., 1–4:30

**Museum Store**  
402-471-3447

Monday–Friday, 10–4  
Saturday & Sunday, 8–5

**Library/Archives**  
1500 R Street, Lincoln  
402-471-4751

Tuesday–Friday, 10–4  
Saturday 8–5

See Facebook link at  
[nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org)

facebook

**State Historic Site hours:**  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

## NEBRASKA history news

Nebraska State Historical Society



### From the Collection. . . The Savidge Brothers' Propeller

The old propeller is cracked and battered, and shows crude repairs. It will be part of *Pioneering Aviators from Flyover Country*, which opens December 1 at the Nebraska History Museum. The propeller has long been identified as being salvaged from the fatal 1916 crash of Nebraska aviation pioneer Matt Savidge.

The Savidges, from Ewing, Nebraska, were among the state's first aviators. From 1911 to 1916, they barnstormed throughout the Great Plains, and Matt Savidge was among the first to develop a method of skywriting.

But is this really the propeller from Matt's fatal flight? Compare this to the photo on p. 4. In a 1956 letter, Gordon O. Harper wrote that he bought the propeller years earlier "at a farm sale at the old Savidge place," and was told it was from the accident. Whether it is or not, it's safe to say it's from a Savidge plane—and that it saw some hard use, a testimony to the dangers of early aviation.